

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Seguin Fire Department Assisting At Large Fire Scene** ***Scrap Pile Burning at CMC Steel Texas***

**UPDATE (8:45 p.m.)** – The fire at CMC Steel Texas remains fully contained and is now approximately 80% extinguished. Fire department officials anticipate having the fire fully out within a few hours. Firefighters are currently working to reach fire that remains deep in the scrap pile.

Precautionary advisories issued earlier in the day to nearby residents regarding smoke have been cancelled.

**UPDATE (4:45 p.m.)** – CMC Steel Texas issued the following updated statement Thursday afternoon.

*“CMC’s top priority is to finish extinguishing the fire, which is contained and under control. Local fire authorities are estimating that approximately 1 acre of scrap material has been affected. The cause of today’s fire has not yet been determined but a thorough investigation will be conducted once we have the fire extinguished. All employees are safe and no equipment was damaged and no mill operations or customer deliveries have been impacted. “*

*“CMC is dedicated to processing metals in a safe, efficient, and environmentally friendly manner. We have rigorous procedures for screening incoming material and for processing and we are committed to mitigating these types of incidents in the future.”*

*“Founded in 1915, Commercial Metals Company and its subsidiaries recycle, manufacture and market steel and metal products and related materials throughout a network of locations around the world.”*

**UPDATE (2:30 p.m.)** – The Seguin Fire department continues assisting multiple agencies battle a scrap pile fire at CMC Steel Texas in Seguin. The McQueeney Volunteer Fire Department is the lead agency.

The fire has not caused any injuries. As a precaution, Guadalupe County Emergency Management Director Dan Kinsey encourages those nearby who have respiratory issues to avoid the smoke. Evacuations have not been ordered and are not anticipated.

“As automobiles are recycled, they remove the batteries, drain the tank, remove the tires and take out the materials that would not be good to be recycled,” Kinsey said. “The overall environmental impact has been minimalized. The facility is far enough from the river that we don’t expect any of the runoff from the firefighting to drain into the river. We’re also building berms around the river to ensure that does not happen.”

Fire departments from Seguin, Schertz, Marion, McQueeney, New Braunfels, New Berlin and Randolph Air Force Base are on scene. The fire is contained to a pile of scrap metal that was approximately 30 feet high and an acre wide when the fire started. The process of extinguishing the fire is expected to continue into nighttime hours.

“We’re working a fire inside of that pile so you have to move the steel around to get to where the fire is at,” Kinsey continued. “Obviously moving steel without it being on fire is a difficult process. Add the complexity of it being on fire and it adds a whole new challenge.”

CMC Steel Texas issued the following statement:

*“This morning at approximately 6:45 am, CMC Steel TX identified and initiated action to control a fire on one of its material feedstock piles. Local fire departments were contacted immediately and are assisting in extinguishing the fire. The fire is isolated from people and other equipment, and there are no injuries and no buildings at the facility or the surrounding area are threatened. The company has contacted the appropriate authorities and ongoing efforts continue to assure that there is no threat to human health or the environment.”*

**ORIGINAL: SEGUIN, Texas** – The Seguin Fire Department is assisting other agencies in battling a fire at CMC Texas, located at 1 Steel Mill Drive, Seguin. The McQueeney Volunteer Fire Department is the lead agency. No injuries have been reported.

The Seguin Fire Department has two engines on scene, including a ladder truck. McQueeney, New Berlin and New Braunfels Fire Departments are also on scene. As of 10 a.m. additional aid was being requested from the Randolph Fire Department.

Approximately one acre of scrap vehicles are on fire. According to CMC, crews are working to separate scrap piles to assist in getting the fire under control. CMC reports the fire is isolated from people and other equipment.

The initial call came in at approximately 7 a.m. The fire is expected to take most of the day to get under control. The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

CMC directs media inquiries to their company to (210) 223-1234.

**About the City of Seguin**

Seguin, Texas is located along Interstate 10, about 35 miles east of San Antonio. Seguin is big enough to boast a top-rated university and a state-of-the-art hospital. More than 25,000 residents enjoy a range of cultural, recreational, and employment opportunities. Seguin's robust diversified economy features a steelmaker, a manufacturer of automotive parts and plants making roadside mowing equipment and building materials. In 2009, Seguin was proud to be selected by Caterpillar as the site of a major new engine manufacturing facility.

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